

Message Text

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ACTION AID-20

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SCI-06 PC-10 USIA-15 IO-14

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 AGR-20 INT-08

COME-00 SWF-02 DRC-01 /118 W
----- 054468

R 271515Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8231
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID NG
SUBJECT: NEWSWEEK STORY ON DROUGHT

REF: DAKAR 3506 AND PREVIOUS

1. JAFFE OF NEWSWEEK SPENT JUNE 22 - 25 IN NIGER
TALKING TO AMBASSADOR, RDO AND STAFF, VOLAG REPS AND
ROTIVAL OF UNDP. HE SNEAKED A QUICK TRIP BY AIR TO
TCHIN-TABARADEN AND VISITED RELIEF CAMPS THERE, BUT HE
SHOULD BE PROTECTED ON THIS OUTING BECAUSE HE TRAVELED
WITHOUT GON PERMISSION. HE TOLD US MATERIAL HE WAS
COLLECTING WAS FOR NEWSWEEK COVER STORY ON DROUGHT EARLY
IN JULY.

2. JAFFE ARRIVED WITH SERIES OF LOADED QUESTIONS BUT LEFT
APPARENTLY SATISFIED THAT THINGS WERE GOING
REASONABLY WELL. HE CHECKED IN AT EMBASSY JUST
BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE TO REPORT HIS CONCLUSIONS TO
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EFFECT THAT A) FAO/OSRO'S APPROACH TO SAHEL DROUGHT WAS

SLUGGISH AND BUREAUCRATIC, B) US PERFORMANCE WAS SATISFACTORY EVEN THOUGH GRAIN DELIVERIES WERE LATE IN GETTING HERE, AND C) STARVATION SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN AVERTED BUT HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITIONS IN CAMPS ARE BAD AND MORE SHOULD BE DONE ON HEALTH FRONT. HE MENTIONED SEEING PEOPLE AT CAMPS WHO WERE NOT DYING BECAUSE OF LACK OF FOOD BUT WHO IN WEAKENED CONDITION WERE EASY VICTIMS OF DISEASES AND DIARRHEA, WHICH CLAIMING VICTIMS DAILY.

3. COMMENT: JAFFEE WAS NERVOUS AT BEGINNING BECAUSE OF ARTICLE HE HAD WRITTEN AT TIME OF COUP WHICH WAS CRITICAL OF NEW GOVERNMENT. AFTER MEETING WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS HE REPORTED NO ONE HELD THIS AGAINST HIM. HE LEFT SATISFIED WITH USG DROUGHT OPERATIONS HERE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, DISASTER RELIEF, DROUGHTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: WorrelSW
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974NIAMEY02152
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740170-1132
From: NIAMEY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974068/aaaaagsp.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: DAKAR 3506 AND PREVIOUS
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: WorrelSW
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 AUG 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <05 MAR 2003 by WorrelSW>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEWSWEEK STORY ON DROUGHT
TAGS: EAID, NG, US, XA, NEWSWEEK, (JAFFE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005